

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending.

Amendments to the Drawings

Figure 1 has been amended to correct minor errors. An annotated Figure 1 is submitted herewith along with a clean version thereof. The amended Figure 1 includes the following changes:

Rod 150 has been annotated with an arrow and numeral "150."
This feature is described in the specification on page 12, paragraph 26, and is also annotated in the initial hand drawn Figure 1 submitted with the application as filed.

"Tagentially" has been corrected to become "Tangentially"

"Inlet Device 114" has been corrected to read "Lower Portion 114" to match the specification, for example on page 8, paragraph 18, page 9, paragraphs 20, 21 and other instances.

These corrections merely clarify the annotation of the drawing to make it more consistent with the specification. These corrections do not modify the subject of the drawing, and do constitute the addition of new matter.

Statement of the Substance of the Interview: March 14, 2008

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.133(b), the Applicants request that the following statement of the substance of the interview conducted on March 4, 2008 be made of

record. In that telephonic interview, Supervisory Patent Examiner Duane Smith discussed the status of claim 25 with Applicants' representative Eric Ramberg. The Applicants noted that per the telephonic interview on December 19, 2007 the parties had agreed that the rejection of claim 25 would be withdrawn, and claim 25 would become objected to (in that it depended from rejected claim 20). However, the Office Action dated February 15, 2008 stated that claim 25 remained rejected. SPE Smith apparently examined the file, and agreed that claim 25 had been previously resolved and thus inadvertently rejected in the Office Action dated February 15, 2008. SPE Smith agreed to issue an Examiner Interview Summary stating the same, vacating the rejection of claim 25, and reclassifying claim 25 as Objected to in its dependence from a rejected claim.

The Applicants thank SPE Smith for his response and clarification.

Statement of the Substance of the Interview: May 7, 2008

The Applicants request that the following statement of the substance of the interview conducted on May 7, 2008, be made of record. In that telephonic interview, Supervisory Patent Examiner Duane Smith and Applicants' representative Eric Ramberg discussed the status of the application. SPE Smith stated that due to the prior reclassification of claim 15 as "objected to" rather than "rejected," the Office Action of February 15, 2008 is vacated, and a new Office Action would be forthcoming. In order to speed prosecution, Mr. Ramberg requested an Examiner Interview, prior to the issuance of this new Office Action, in order to discuss the pending 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claim 1 over Johnsgard (U.S. patent number 4,986,838) and Han (U.S. patent number 6,090,208). The parties agreed to an Examiner Interview on May 13, 2008 at 13:00, EST.

Statement of the Substance of the Interview: May 13, 2008

The Applicants request that the following statement of the substance of the interview conducted on May 13, 2008, be made of record. In that telephonic interview, Supervisory Patent Examiner Duane Smith, Examiner Ives Wu, and Applicants' representative Eric Ramberg discussed claims 1, 8-14, 24, and 25.

The Examiners clarified that claims 8-14, 24, and 25 recited allowable subject matter. The parties discussed the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claim 1 over Johnsgard (U.S. patent number 4,986,838) and Han (U.S. patent number 6,090,208), and agreed that Han teaches away from an inlet manifold, and that the 103(a) rejection of claim 1 is thus overcome. The Examiners stated that the application would likely be moved to allowance, but if new art is discovered, a new office action would be forthcoming.

The Applicants thank the Examiners for their time, and further thank the Examiners for their indication of allowability of claim 1.

Conclusion


The Applicants thank the Examiner for indication of allowability of claims 1-27,
and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Johnsgard et al.

Date: June 13, 2008

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Brian Bathurst". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "K." is followed by "Brian" and "Bathurst".

K. Brian Bathurst, Reg. No. 51,442

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